INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) it is proposed to set up a National Marine Fisheries Development Board for the overall development of the fisheries sector.

(b) The Board is proposed to be set up in the 8th Five Year Plan period.

Passive Smoking

7711. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the present medical opinion passive smoking is as harmful and injurious as actual smoking;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to the latest thinking there is no proof that the wives or husbands of smokers have a higher incidence of lung cancer; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Passive smokers are at a higher risk as compared to non-smokers in developing tobacco related diseases.

(b) and (c) Manary studies have indicated that the spouses of smokers are at a higher risk of devleoping Lung cancer as compared to non-smokers.

Alleged Resale of used Syringes

7712. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have detected many cases of disposable syringes after their one time use, finding their way in the market for rasale if so, the names of places where such cases were detected;

(b) whether any enquiry was made and action taken in this matter; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government received representation to include disposable syringes under Food and Drugs Act; and

(d) if so, what aciton is being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) Such reports have come to the notice of Govt. through periodic press reports. All State Drug Controllers have been advised to ensure that hospitels, nursing homes and practitioners take adequate measures to ensure that the disposable syringes and needles are effectively destroyed after use. Further all licencees have to print a label stating "to be destroyed after single use" to prevent the re-use or recycling of the items.

Government have already notified (1) Disposable Hypepdermic syringes (2) Disposable Hypodermic Needles and (3) Disposable Perfusion sets, as drugs, under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 with effect from 17-3-1989.

Vacant Posts in C.G.H.S. Store Depots

7713. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a number of posts of stores Officers, UDGs, LDCs, packers and Labourers (regular) are lying vacant in Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Unani Store Depots under C.G.H.S. in Delhi.

(b) if so, their number in each category and since when these are lying vacant; and

(c) by when Government propose to fill up these posts to run the stores properly?

THE MINSITER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B.

SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) The posting orders in respect of all vacant posts, except for the post of Store Officer, have been issued. The post of Store Officer has been lying vacant since 14-12-93. Efforts are being made to fill it as early as possible.

Shortage of Basic Drugs in CGHS Dispensaries in Delhi

7714. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has recently been made to know the shortage of basic drugs in the CGHS dispansaries in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for the deficiencies in the supply of life saving drugs in CGHS dispensaries; and

(d) what measures have been taken to remove the dificiencies?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) By and large, there are no deficiencies in the supply of life saving drugs to CGHS dispensaries. However, occasional shortages in the supply of drugs are made up through purchases from the approved local chemists.

Spread of AIDS in North-Eastern States

7715. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the North-Eastern States comprising of one percent of the national population are having as many as 16% of the country's AIDS cases;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any critical study of the causes for the rasing AIDS cases in the North-Eastern States;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the annual percentage of rise in AIDS cases in these States as compared to other states identified as epi-centre of AIDS in the country; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to tackle this growing problem?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. 4% of the total number of reported AIDS cases in the country are from North-Eastern States. High prevalance of injecting drug and needle sharing are the main cause of rising number of AIDS cases in these States.

(c) Annual quantum of rise in AIDS cases during last one year is nearly 4.5 times in North-Eastern States as against 2.8 times in Maharashtra and 2.3. times in Tamil Nadu which are considered as epicentre States.

(d) Apart from programmes to ensure blood safety and control of sexually transmitted diseases, innovative intervention programmes are being undertaken among the injecting drug users with the help of NGOs to curtail/ step injecting drug use and needle sharing. Special awareness campaigns about the 'harm-reduction' measures are also underway. IEC campaigns for promotion/adopting of safer sex practices are also being undertaken.

Proposal to Ban Advertisements of All Tobacco Products

7716. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate stopping of advertisements of all tobacco products in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage by which the consumption of tobacco products is